

Visit of Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha to Vietnam, 19-22 April 2022

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INDIA AND VIETNAM HAVE BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH ASEAN TOWARDS A RULES-BASED INDO-PACIFIC REGION: LOK SABHA SPEAKER

Hanoi 19 April 2022: Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla, who is leading an Indian Parliamentary Delegation, arrived in Hanoi, Vietnam on a three day visit today. On the first day of his visit, Shri Birla held bilateral meetings with President of Vietnam H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc; Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Pham Minh Chinh and Chairman of National Assembly of Vietnam H.E. Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue.

In his meeting with the President of Vietnam H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Shri Birla was happy to note that the bilateral relationship between the two countries was transformed into a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' in 2016 and a joint vision for peace and prosperity was adopted by Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc and the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, in 2021. Shri Birla mentioned that the comprehensive strategic partnership includes political ties, trade and investment treaties, energy cooperation, development partnership, and defense and security cooperation.

Shri Birla noted that India and Vietnam have a long tradition of mutual cooperation in challenging global circumstances. He expressed happiness that two nations have helped each other in the war against the COVID-19 pandemic. Shri Birla further said that economic relations between India and Vietnam have gained momentum over the years. He added that despite the disruption caused by the COVID pandemic, bilateral trade between the two countries stood at over US\$ 13 billion last year.

Shri Birla also mentioned that the defense partnership between the two countries, which has grown significantly based on common interests, has expanded into new areas including defense industrial and technical cooperation. He hoped that the strong bilateral defense cooperation between India and Vietnam will contribute to international peace, regional security and prosperity.

During the day, Shri Birla also called on Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr. Pham Minh Chinh and held wide ranging discussion on bilateral matters. Speaking about economic and trade cooperation, Shri Birla said that Indian investors have keen interest in Vietnam and urged the Prime Minister to create favorable conditions for them in order to encourage more investment.

Shri Birla noted that India and Vietnam have cooperated with each other in taking up global issues as non-permanent members in the UN Security Council. He added that the two countries have been working closely with ASEAN towards a free, open, peaceful, prosperous, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific region. He further remarked that peace and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region has increased through the Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative (IPOI) and ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).

Earlier, Shri Birla was welcomed in a traditional ceremony at the Nation Assembly of Vietnam where he held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue, Chairman of the Nation Assembly.

Emphasizing on regular bilateral parliamentary exchanges, Shri Birla observed that regular visits between countries provide opportunities to share views and strengthen legislative cooperation. He added that for this purpose, the India-Vietnam Friendship Group is being formed to provide a new dimension to the mutual relations between the Parliaments of the two countries through regular mutual exchange.

VIETNAM IS ONE OF INDIA'S CLOSEST PARTNER AND IMPORTANT PILLAR OF OUR ACT EAST POLICY AND INDO-PACIFIC VISION: LOK SABHA SPEAKER

Hanoi 20 April 2022: On the second day of its visit to Vietnam, the Indian Parliamentary Delegation (IPD) led by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla, called on Secretary General of the Communist Party of Vietnam H. E. Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, today.

In his interaction with the Secretary General, Shri Birla mentioned that Vietnam is one of India's closest partners and an important pillar of our Act East policy and Indo-Pacific vision. He added that India and Vietnam share a common outlook on issues of global and regional peace. Speaking about matters of regional and global importance, Shri Birla said that as countries facing similar challenges and sharing similar developmental perspectives, India and Vietnam can further expand their cooperation in areas such as climate change and sustainable development, health care and the digital economy.

Underlining the two countries shared vision in the defense sector, Shri Birla noted that the Indo-Vietnam defense partnership is growing rapidly in areas like defense industry, maritime security, capacity building programs and UN peacekeeping. He added that these defense ties are a major contributor to the peace, security and stability of the Indo-Pacific region. Shri Birla urged the Vietnamese leader to make efforts to further strengthen this strategic partnership.

Speaking about trade and economic ties, Shri Birla was happy to note that India and Vietnam strive to build reliable and strong supply chains. He further remarked that despite the disruptions by the pandemic last year, the bilateral trade between the two countries stood at over \$13 billion. Shri Birla called for widening of trade ties in order to ensure that bilateral trade of \$15 billion could be achieved quickly.

Shri Birla also lauded the long-term and mutually beneficial partnership between India and Vietnam in the energy sector. He mentioned that ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has been involved in offshore power projects in Vietnam for more than three decades. Shri Birla expressed hope that the OVL contract would be renewed for another 15 years.

Earlier, Shri Birla and Members of the IPD visited the Mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh in Ho Chi Minh City and laid a wreath.

VIETNAM-INDIA AIR SERVICES RESTORED, NEW ROUTES OPENED

Hanoi, 20 April 2022: Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla's visit to Vietnam has given a new dimension to air services between the two countries. Shri Birla and Chairman of National Assembly of Vietnam H.E. Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue not only restored the suspended direct air services between the two countries after the COVID-19 pandemic, but also inaugurated air services on new routes.

Before the outbreak of the pandemic, Vietnamese airlines VietJet was operating regular flights from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to New Delhi. Apart from this, Charter flights were also being operated to the major Buddhist spiritual centre, Bodh Gaya. However these services were suspended after the pandemic struck. These flights have now been resumed during the visit of Shri Birla. The two existing services between Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi and New Delhi will resume on April 29 and April 30.

Additionally, four new routes will connect Hanoi-Mumbai, Ho Chi Minh City-Mumbai and the southern resort island of Phu Quoc with New Delhi and Mumbai. Vietjet Air will operate four round-trip flights each week on the HCM City-Mumbai route from June 2 and three weekly round-trip flights on the Hanoi-Mumbai route from June 3. Similarly, four round-trip flights will be available on the Phu Quoc-Mumbai route every week and three flights on the Phu Quoc-New Delhi route will be available from September 8 and 9.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Birla said that the new and increased connectivity between Vietnam and India will generate business and tourism opportunities, which will boost the economies of both the countries.

MoU SIGNED BETWEEN GALAXY DIGITAL AND TECH MAHINDRA

An MoU for a joint venture between Galaxy Digital Holdings of Vietnam, Sovico Group and Tech Mahindra Ltd of India was signed in the presence of Shri Birla and Mr. Hue. Under this agreement, Tech Mahindra and Galaxy Digital will work together to establish a global software development centre in Vietnam. Apart from this, initiatives on data exchange, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) services, research and innovation centers and IT training centers will be made.

SHARED HERITAGE OF INDIA & VIETNAM IS PERFECT LAUNCH PAD FOR ENHANCED COOPERATION IN TRADE AND INVESTMENT: LOK SABHA SPEAKER

Hanoi; 21 April, 2022: Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla, which is visiting Vietnam and Cambodia from 19 to 25 April 2022, met Party Secretary of Ho Chi Minh city, H.E. Mr. Ngyuen Van Nen, today.

Underlining that Vietnam and India have remarkable commonality on a host of issues, Shri Birla observed that the two countries have enjoyed a long tradition of friendship and cooperation despite fluctuations in dynamics of international relations. This reflects the maturity of the relationship and importance of the strong ties between the two countries at the regional and global levels, said Shri Birla.

Mentioning that both countries are facing similar challenges and share similar developmental perspectives, Shri Birla suggested that their bilateral engagement should further expand to areas such as climate change, sustainable development, health care and digital economy. Referring to the need for enhanced cooperation in defense sector, Shri Birla was of the view that the growing defense cooperation in areas such as defense industry, maritime security, capacity building programmes and UN peacekeeping has given great momentum to bilateral relationship. He hoped that bilateral defense ties would play a major role in maintenance of peace and stability of our Indo-Pacific region.

H.E. Mr. Ngyuen Van Nen lauded India's support to Vietnam during Covid pandemic and supply of vaccines, medicines and medical equipment. He also requested Shri Birla for efforts in the direction of commencing direct flight between Ho Chi Minh city and India. Shri Birla assured that he will convey his sentiment to the Indian government.

Speaking on parliamentary cooperation, Lok Sabha Speaker said that Parliamentary exchanges have been cornerstone of bilateral relations as people's representatives exchange ideas with each other in a purposive manner during such exchanges. He added that as India and Vietnam are celebrating 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year, this is an opportunity for to further develop the relationship and deepen bilateral cooperation.

Later, Shri Birla attended a community event organized by the Indian Embassy in Vietnam.

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